

CHARLESTON, S. C.  
NEWS & COURIER

m. 61,257  
S. 76,549

CPYRGHT

Front Edit Other  
Page Page Page

Date: APR 13 1965

# Raborn Selection Wins Endorsement Of Rivers

WASHINGTON — The appointment of retired Vice Adm. William F. (Red) Raborn Jr. to head the Central Intelligence Agency won the outspoken endorsement of House Armed Services Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers Monday.

And across Capitol Hill, President Johnson's selection of the 59-year-old "father" of the Polaris missile system as head of the super-secret agency won at least the mild approval of Sen. Strom Thurmond, a member of the Senate Armed Services panel.

Raborn, who is well known in Charleston, where he has been a frequent visitor because of his connection with

the Polaris system, was named by Mr. Johnson Sunday afternoon to succeed John A. McCone, West Coast industrialist who has held the post since 1961.

Rivers, who long has been closely associated with Raborn, both officially and personally, hailed the President's "wisdom" in selecting the retired admiral and predicted that the nation would benefit from it.

He also had praise for Raborn's willingness to give up the vice presidency of Aerojet General Corporation, one of the nation's largest defense contractors, to come back to Washington.

The Texas native had retired from the Navy in Sep-

tember, 1963, after having served as deputy chief of Naval Operations for Research.

Rivers said his great delight in Raborn's appointment to head the vast and far-flung CIA complex, the nation's principal intelligence - gathering network and at the same time a covert foreign policy instrument, was summed up in this telegram he sent the admiral:

"My sincerest congratulations on your appointment as head of the CIA. No appointment to any high position has pleased me more. I know that the entire membership of the House Armed Services Committee joins me in extending you not only a pledge for fullest cooperation, but also hearty endorsement of your appointment."

"The President is to be congratulated on the wisdom of his choice and the nation will be the beneficiary of it. I know this is a great personal sacrifice on your part, for you have already contributed far more than your share to the greatness of this nation."

"Thank you for accepting this new and tremendous responsibility."

Thurmond, who rarely finds himself even in lukewarm agreement with any actions of the present administration, was far less enthusiastic in his reaction to the Raborn appointment. But he said, off the cuff and without giving the question intensive study, that he thought the retired admiral's selection to head CIA was "all right."